

MAY 2019 | Vol. 42, No. 5

ENERGYLINES

TRANSITIONS

Hoosier Energy's annual meeting focuses on industry change. **PAGE 3**





EnergyLines recognized for reporting quality

EnergyLines has been awarded best internal news publication in NRECA's Spotlight on Excellence program. The national program recognizes the best communication efforts by electric cooperatives.

"The entire communications team is honored to receive this award. This recognition is a reflection of the great work Hoosier Energy employees and member co-ops do every day as reported on in the pages of EnergyLines," said Hoosier Energy Communication Coordinator Eric Neely.

Entrants competed with electric cooperatives of similar size in 16 categories. Co-op communicators submitted nearly 650 entries in the program this year.

Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as newspaper professionals judged the event, using a finite scoring system to determine the winners.

EIA expects energy use to decrease from last year

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects the average U.S. residential customer will use an average of 1,026 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month during the summer cooling season that runs from June through August. This is about 5 percent less than the same period last year.

EIA uses the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather forecast, which indicates that temperatures will be cooler than last summer in all regions of the United States.

The cooler forecast temperatures contribute to the lower expected electricity use.



INDUSTRY NEWS

Keys to industry success identified by NRECA chief

Curtis Wynn opened his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) presidency with a solid message for electric co-ops in the face of blazing change – acknowledge the industry's transformation, adapt, and lead the way for consumer-members.

Wynn said co-ops must recognize three key dynamics:

- Market forces and consumer expectations are the most significant drivers.
- The future will demand sustainability and efficiency.
- The future will require grid flexibility.

"Our member-consumers are demanding more and more from us—whether it is more convenience, diversity of thought and perspectives, or evolving services," said Wynn.

"My simple suggestion is that we acknowledge that change is happening, act on it and lead through it."

Source: Cathy Cash, NRECA

INDUSTRY NEWS

U.S. utility to build world's largest battery system

Florida Power & Light is planning to build the largest battery storage system in the world. The utility expects the system to be operational by 2021 according to a Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report.

When fully charged, the battery would have the ability to provide 409 megawatts of energy for two hours.

The WSJ report notes that the batteries will be charged by two solar farms with the ability to capture 149 megawatts.

This system is to be used during times of high energy demand – reducing the need for natural gas peaking plants.



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Strategic *Priorities*

**RISK
MANAGEMENT**

GOVERNANCE

**COMPETITIVE
RATES**

**COST MANAGEMENT
AND PERFORMANCE**

**SUPPLY
PORTFOLIO**

**OPERATIONAL
EXCELLENCE**



HE photo

POWER PLANT TOUR: The spring marketing and member service meeting included tours of the Merom Generating Station. These tours show how steam is used to generate electricity and the environmental controls in place.

ON THE COVER

Meter Relay Working Foreman Donnie Eslinger has witnessed many technology changes throughout his 42-year career at Hoosier Energy. Eslinger holds a photo of himself testing electrical mechanical relays at a substation.



Member service updates

Meeting highlights what is new from Hoosier Energy

Each spring, marketing and member service professionals from member cooperatives meet to learn what is new from Hoosier Energy. Taking place at the Merom Generating Station, the semi-annual meeting provides updates to those who coordinate marketing, communications, public relations and energy efficiency programs.

Marketing Department representatives provided a summary of the 2018 Demand Side Management Annual Report. Energy efficiency and incentive program details were also

presented to members. Additional communication resources for co-ops to use were shown including: infographics, videos and FAQs.

Information provided about the Commercial and Industrial program highlighted current rebates as well as the Builder Operator Certification training

being offered by Hoosier Energy.

This training helps building operators in member territories learn new skills to increase the efficiency of HVAC systems and improve indoor environmental quality at member-served businesses. [E](#)

**MEMBER
FOCUS**

**EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES**

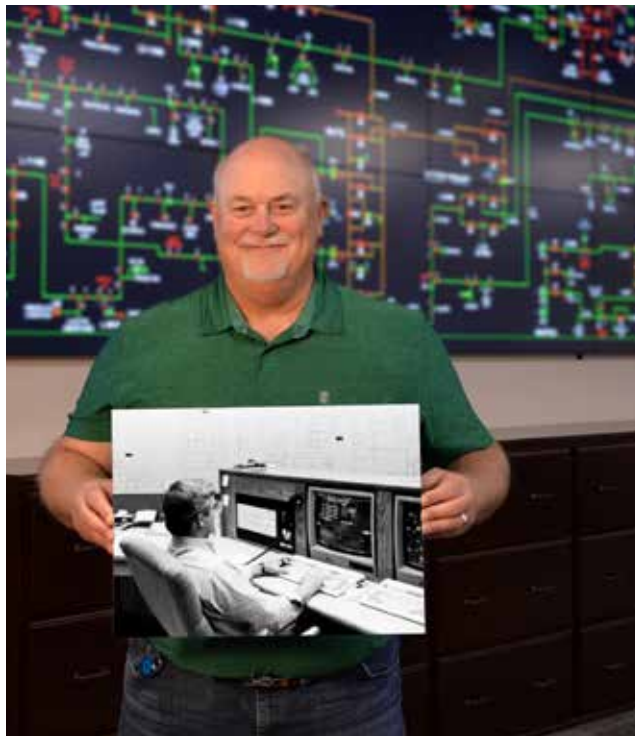
POWER GENERATION

Hoosier Energy's first power plant, the Ratts Generating Station, served members for more than 40 years. Human Resources Assistant Barb Myers began her Hoosier Energy career at the station. She stands in a field of grass where the plant once stood, holding an image of the facility.



SYSTEM CONTROL

System Control Coordinator Bobby Hill stands in Hoosier Energy's control room. Hill, a 34-year employee, holds an image of an operator working in the former control room. As technology advances, system control is implementing hardware and software to ensure security of the grid.



TRANSITIONS



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Where open fields once stood, an array of solar panels now captures energy from the sun. Josh Cisney, Project Developer of Renewable Energy, stands at one of the solar sites that generates 1 megawatt of energy.



POWER GENERATION

Power Production Engineer Marissa Stout stands on the turbine deck at Hoosier Energy's Merom Generating Station. The black and white image she is holding shows scaffolding erected at the generating station during construction in the late 1970s.

CEO discusses changing consumer expectations

Chief Executive Officer's message

Hoosier Energy CEO Donna Walker shares her vision for the future of the G&T.

At Hoosier Energy's annual meeting in early April at French Lick, Hoosier Energy CEO Donna Walker highlighted the successes of the generation and transmission (G&T) electric cooperative.

"The success that we've shared over the many decades is a real testament to the dedication and determination of the men and women who came before us," said Walker.

As "transitions" were a common theme of the meeting, she took the opportunity to talk about how consumer preferences and expectations are changing. Walker linked these changes to technology as a driving force.

"In my opinion, everything we're seeing points to the need for a dramatic shift in the way our industry goes about serving our consumers," said Walker.

Are the changes taking place in the electric utility industry a bad thing? Walker says no.

"If we continue to focus on providing services in a way that makes life more convenient for member-consumers and offering them an expanding variety of options tailored to their personal interests, I have no doubt that our transition into the future will be extremely successful," she said.

Walker talked about the priorities the G&T is focusing on to achieve the goals set by the Hoosier Energy board of directors.

“If we continue to focus on providing services in a way that makes life more convenient for member-consumers and offering them an expanding variety of options tailored to their personal interests, I have no doubt that our transition into the future will be extremely successful.” Donna Walker, CEO



“It’s no surprise that maintaining competitive rates and managing costs remain top priorities. We will continue to strive for operational excellence while carefully balancing associated costs and will continue to foster a culture of active risk management,” she said.

Walker noted that the G&T will serve as a central source of coordination for emerging technologies and possible applications across the power network. Hoosier Energy will actively manage the current and future supply portfolio to provide reliable and affordable energy, emphasizing a diverse portfolio that includes both traditional and alternative resources.

The focus on member cooperatives remains strong as she talked about Board engagement.

“We’re already engaging the Board and Member Managers in resource planning discussions. And future supply opportunities and alternatives will reflect the elements that members view as most important to you,” said Walker. [E](#)

Chairman’s message

Hoosier Energy Chairman Darin Duncan talks about the strength of the Board and organizational functions.

Last year was a period of change and transition for Hoosier Energy. The Board selected Darin Duncan to again serve as chairman of the Board after Herb Haggard retired; and the Board began a search for Hoosier Energy’s new Chief Executive Officer after CEO Steve Smith announced his retirement.

The Board has begun to strengthen and modernize bylaws as they relate to organizational functions.

This will improve and streamline the channels for input and feedback from their group to both the board of directors and Hoosier Energy management.

“Throughout the past year, I

have been reminded countless times of the strength we [the Board] have together, and the value that is added to our organizations by diverse opinions and feedback,” said Duncan.

“I have been humbled by the level of commitment, compassion, and vision that I have seen at our G&T. Rest assured, they are up to any challenges that may come their way in the future,” Duncan added.

Duncan thanked Hoosier Energy employees for their dedication and hard work and for the continued cooperation among Hoosier Energy’s 18 member cooperatives, which helps Hoosier Energy to chart the course for the future. [E](#)



Exhibit area

There were seven exhibit booths at this year’s annual meeting. The booths provide the opportunity to engage with Hoosier Energy employees about resources available to cooperatives. Information shared and the discussions that took place helped connect how these services are providing value.

Human Resources representatives discussed workforce leadership training. These programs are helping transform cooperative employees into leaders as they gain a stronger understanding of personal strengths, weaknesses and motivations.

At the Emerging Energy Resources booth, attendees were asked what comes to mind when they think about emerging technologies. The most frequent response was battery storage.

Other member-focused booths were on display from: Economic Development, Operations, Communications, Marketing (Team Up) and Safety and Training. [E](#)



HE photo

CYBER SECURITY DISCUSSION: Anderson University President John Pistole, left, discussed his experience at the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Dustin Hutchison, President and COO of Pondurance looked on.

Guest speakers talk about cyber security

Cyber security expert Dustin Hutchison, President and Chief Operating Officer at Pondurance, a cyber security prevention and protection company, took questions from the audience during the Hoosier Energy annual meeting.

The session was moderated by Anderson University President John Pistole, formerly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Here are two questions that directly affect co-ops.

Q: A lot of our members have minimal information Technology staff available. How does a co-op protect itself with minimal staff?

A: Regular cyber security education. Audit, log, and practice proactive monitoring. Identify someone in Human Resources as a back-up to help monitor.

Q: A lot of us use the same software vendors, which promise to keep our information safe. A lot of us take them for their word. Where does the liability lie when we are using an outside vendor?

A: Ultimately, you are responsible for the liability. We should do our due diligence to keep it from happening from the beginning. Get your legal representative involved before signing any contracts. Thoroughly evaluate the vendor and also include your executives in the decision of a vendor.

MEMBER-FOCUSED

WIN Energy REMC celebrated its 80th annual meeting with strong member turnout

The 80th WIN Energy REMC annual meeting took place April 6 at Vincennes Lincoln High School.

Chief Executive Officer Tom Nowaskie's report noted that the cooperative has been providing reliable service for 80 years and that the cooperative is looking forward to another 80 years.

The cooperative provided ten \$1,000 scholarships to area high school seniors.

Seven employees were recognized for their service at the cooperative, equating to a total of 250 years of combined service.

Each of the estimated 450 members in attendance received a \$5 bill credit, commemorative mug, LED light, a LED night light and an annual report.

The grand prize was a John Deere riding mower.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Both directors up for re-election were elected.

District 1: Marion Jochim

District 4: Marlin Dreiman



EVENT DETAILS

Entertainment was provided by Evan Twitty, above, and the Rieggle Kids – a bluegrass quartet.

MEMBER-FOCUSED

ANNUAL MEETINGS PART OF THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE FOR ELECTRIC CONSUMERS

Southeastern Indiana REMC's 80th annual meeting focused on 'Remember Our Past, Embrace our Future'

Southeastern Indiana REMC's annual meeting took place on March 30 at South Ripley High School.

General Manager Keith Matthews noted that the board of directors had developed a new strategic initiative in 2018 to include the development of cross-functional teams. This has helped improve efficiency and member service.

Co-op members received an update that the board of trustees awarded more than \$123,000 to community businesses and groups in their territory.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

District 4: Jesse McClure was elected.

District 5: Melissa Menchhofer was re-elected.

District 9: Casey Menchhofer was elected.

EVENT DETAILS

B.J. Myers streamed parts of the annual meeting using Facebook Live as seen in the photo above.

Harrison REMC annual meeting had strong turnout as members listened to the cooperative message

Member turnout was strong for the Harrison REMC annual meeting at Corydon Central High School.

CEO David Lett spoke about the new automated meter infrastructure system in place that can determine outages in real-time. The system has had 99.8 percent successful readings since implemented.

The cooperative was pleased to announce it has had five years without a lost time incident. *(See more info about this on page 9)*



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

District 2: Pat Book

District 3: Brian Koettner

District 6: Craig Engleman

EVENT DETAILS

Entertainment was provided by Corydon LIVE! with special guest Rockin Terry Lee Ridley.



HE photo

INCENTIVE PROGRAM: Blake Kleaving, right, discusses the installation of 480 LED highbay light fixtures at a warehouse served by JCREMC. As Hoosier Energy's Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator, Kleaving works with member cooperatives to review projects such as this one at the Franklin Tech Park.

EFFICIENCY EQUATION

Imagine a facility the size of 37 Olympic swimming pools

Giant warehouse benefits from energy efficient lighting

The flip of a light switch – a process we do every day to illuminate a room. What if the room had 480 lights to power? In that case, energy efficiency would play an important role.

LED lighting technology can help co-op members better manage their energy bill. Combine lighting advancements with an incentive program and the results are beneficial to both cooperatives and their commercial and industrial members.

“Forward thinking businesses are always pursuing efficiency improvements throughout their operations. Having energy efficiency as part of the solution, self-investment and the utilization of incentives from their electric co-op positions these companies for future savings,” said Hoosier Energy's Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator Blake Kleaving.

That room with 480 lights is actually a gigantic warehouse. When the developer of this building reached out to JCREMC to

find ways to improve its efficiency, the co-op knew they could help.

By utilizing the new construction LED lighting incentive program offered by the co-op, the developer was able to source and install LED highbay light fixtures that are Design Lights Consortium (DLC) approved. The DLC is a non-profit organization that works with utilities and lighting manufacturers to help identify a qualified lighting product list.

With the equipment installed and verified, the 930,000 square-foot facility at the Franklin Tech Park was approved for the \$38,400 rebate. While the majority of projects that receive this type of rebate are retrofits, new construction projects like this are also great candidates.

“This warehouse facility is massive – and more importantly, efficient! Working with JCREMC, this rebate is playing a part in improving efficiency and light quality for the new tenants of the space,” said Kleaving. [EL](#)

Did you know?

UTILITY MICROGRID PROJECTS

A recent report by Utility Dive examined how a utility is working with a local community to plan how it can withstand extreme weather and other power outages while still successfully integrating distributed energy resources.

WHERE TO FIND IT:

Utilitydive.com
(Search for “Dawn of the Utility Microgrid”)

ENERGY COMPANIES TO CREATE ENERGY STORAGE STANDARDS

Duke Energy and 26 other companies took the first step toward optimizing safety standards around energy storage resources. This initiative is being led by the Energy Storage Association.

WHERE TO FIND IT:

UtilityDive.com



Submitted photo

Co-op celebrates no lost-time incidents for five years

Co-op value.

Harrison REMC recently celebrated five years with no lost-time incidents. This is a great accomplishment and is the result of great teamwork.

"I cannot say enough about the effort put forth by our entire team here at Harrison REMC," said David Lett, Chief Executive Officer of Harrison REMC. "We recognize that each day presents a new challenge and our employees work hard to make sure safety is always our number one priority."

Helping reach this achievement is a

meeting every Thursday morning. Each week, the crew meets to discuss near misses, truck issues, abnormal system configurations, procedural changes, and project updates.

Employees also have 12 safety meetings per year on required and desired topics.

The office staff completes online training from Indiana Electric Cooperatives as well as some classroom sessions.

Harrison REMC is very proud of its employees making safety a top priority.

Illinois co-op lineman recognized for safety efforts

More than 100 electric cooperative employees from 23 Illinois co-ops attended the Safety Supervisory Technical Conference in Decatur, Ill.

This conference provides line personnel with the latest safety information to help them evaluate and improve their safety performance.

The meeting includes the

presentation of Safety Leadership Awards. Chad Hinkle earned a Safety Leadership Award this year.

As a lineman at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, he was nominated by his peers as they recognized his efforts to promote a cooperative safety culture that exceeds expectations.

Social session

Member cooperatives continue to use social media to show electric consumers how they are committed to them. Whitewater Valley REMC communicated how they helped pay outstanding lunch fees through their "25 acts of kindness" program, while SCI REMC shared how they are reliable and affordable through the Touchstone Energy campaign.



(FACEBOOK)
WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



(FACEBOOK)
SCI REMC



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NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



HE photo

2012 TORNADO DAMAGE: Tornadoes roared through southern Indiana in March 2012 killing 13 people and destroying homes, schools and businesses. Serving Clark County REMC, the Henryville substation was nearly destroyed. It was rebuilt and energized in six days in a collaborative cooperative effort.

Co-op employees train to be prepared to work safely when disasters strike

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) designates each May as National Electrical Safety Month. The theme for this year is “Safety During Natural Disasters.”

To support natural disaster awareness and readiness, the Hoosier Energy’s Apprenticeship Training and Safety (HEATS) program helps co-op employees prepare for natural disasters that can affect the delivery of electricity such as ice storms, tornadoes and flooding.

“Through the HEATS program, we teach that we have to watch out for the safety of the public as well as our own,” said Hoosier Energy Training and Safety Instructor Dave Helton.

The HEATS program teaches apprentices how to select the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

For example, line workers must use the appropriate classification of PPE (rubber

“Through the HEATS program, we teach that we have to watch out for the safety of the public as well as our own.”

DAVE HELTON

Training and Safety Instructor

gloves, etc.) while working with voltage levels that can vary from state to state.

Line worker visibility is also important. During a natural disaster, wearing hard hats, brightly-colored vests and using flashers on trucks and equipment helps member-consumers easily identify them. This is helpful during times of prolonged darkness following a natural disaster.

Together, these steps are helping protect line workers and the public as power is restored following natural disasters. [EL](#)

ENERGYLINES

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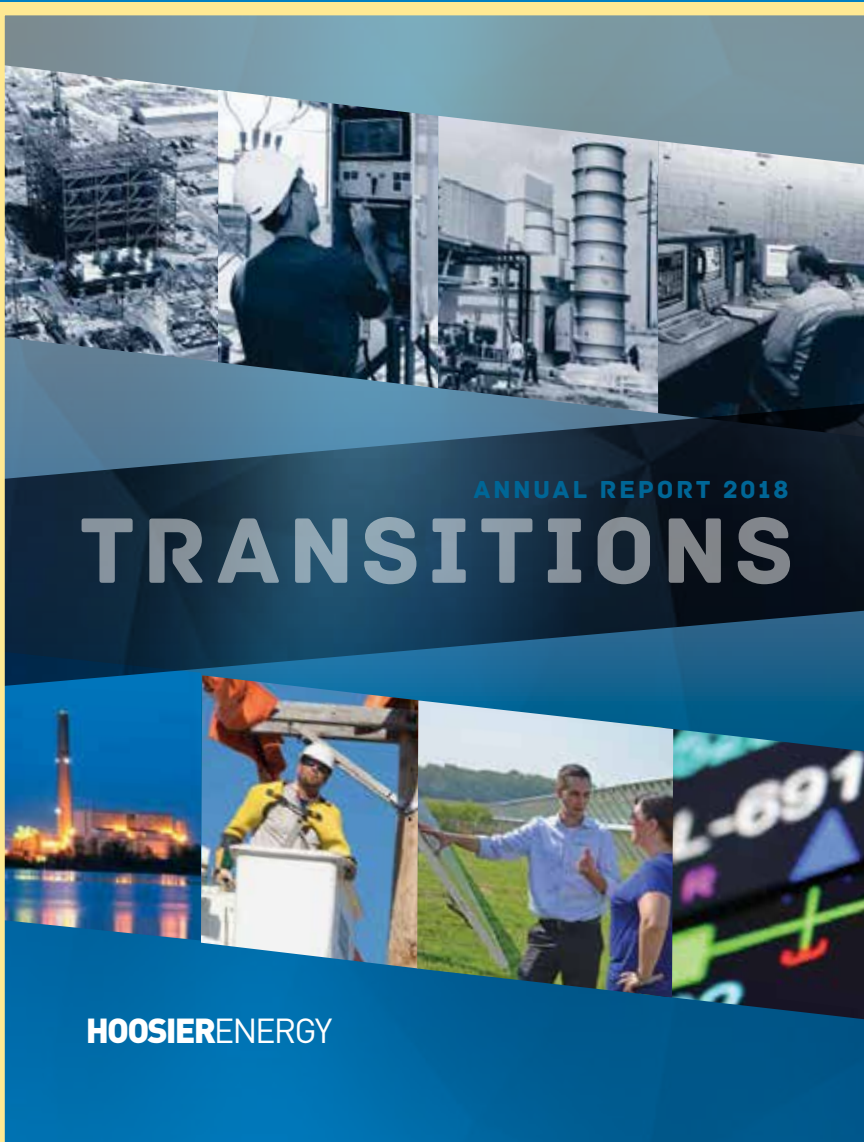
A time of transition

This is an exciting time in our industry.

Electric vehicles, advanced control systems for industrial processes, battery storage – these are just a few of the emerging technologies that are changing the world we live in.

At the same time, consumers are taking more control over their ever-expanding energy choices.

As these transitions take hold, Hoosier Energy and its 18 member distribution systems are working harder, smarter and leaner than ever before.



**ONLINE
EXTRA**

>> To view the 2018 Hoosier Energy annual report visit:
HoosierEnergy.com